No proposal for Central financial assistance has been received from the Govt. of Bihar for development of Tourism facilities at Kesria, Peepra, Areraj, Motihari, Jheel and on the road leading to Nepal.

[*English*]

GAS PRICING

*224. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gurarat has submitted any comments on Kelkar Committee's recommendations regarding gas pricing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the latest position in this regard ?

THE MINISTR OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Representations have been received from time to time from the Government of Gujarat regarding the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee. These are considered while taking decisions on the recommendations.

APPOINTMENT IN GROUND SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF AIR INDIA

*867. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ground Services Department (G.S.D.) of the Air India was carved out of its Engineering Department; and if so, when;

(b) the initial strength of Senior Officers viz., Manager, Deputy Director and Director as on October 1, 1990;

(c) whether any Rules had been framed for appointment to the posts of Deputy Director and Director and if so, when it was published in the gazette of India;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the manner in which appointment to these posts had been made in the past and at present ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. It was done in September, 1971.

(b) The strength of Managers and above as on 1st October, 1990 was 24.

(c) to (e) Appointment to the post of Director is on the basis of merit with the approval of the Board of Directors. The appointment to the post of Deputy Director is made either by horizontal transfers or internal promotion. The promotion policy and procedures have been laid down by Air India. Such circulars are not published in the Gazette of India.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS FROM TOURISM

868. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the amount in foreign exchange earned from tourism during 1989-90 and 1990-91; and

(b) the steps taken to earn more foreign exchange from tourism in future ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) The foreign exchange earnings from tourism during 1989-80 and 1990-91 are provisionally estimated to be Rs. 2456 crores and Rs. 2444 crores respectively.

(b) The steps taken include continuous upgradation of tourism infrastructure in the country and strengthening of marketing efforts in the overseas markets.